inherently village oriented. Out of a total number of 1,55,035 Post Offices (as on 31.03.2008), 1,39,173 are functioning in rural including hilly areas of the country. This implies that 89% of the post offices are operating from villages. As regards the State of Himachal Pradesh, there are 2658 post offices in rural/hilly areas against 119 post offices in urban areas.

(b) The conventional products like Money Orders, Registration, Savings Bank services etc. are already available in post offices functioning in hilly areas. For making the post offices more useful to the people living in rural/hilly areas, two new welfare schemes of the Government of India like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) have already been implemented whereunder disbursal of the amount is done either through Money Orders or Post Office Savings Bank Accounts.

PCOs in Himachal Pradesh

20. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) circle-wise details of applications from handicapped persons for getting Public Call Offices (PCOs) in Himachal Pradesh received by Government during the last two years;

(b) circle-wise details of PCOs allotted to the handicapped applicants during the last two years;

(c) whether Government proposes to allot PCOs to all the eligible handicapped applicants of each circle; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The circle-wise details of applications received from handicapped persons for getting PCOs and number of PCOs allotted by BSNL to handicapped persons during last two years are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All pending cases as on 01.04.2009 will be provided by 30.09.2009 subject to technical feasibility and fulfillment of commercial conditions.

Statement

Circle-wise details of applications for PCOs received from handicapped persons and PCOs allotted during last two years i.e. 2007-08 *and* 2008-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of applications received from handicapped persons for PCOs			No. of PCOs provided to handicapped persons		
		2007-08	2008-09	Total	2007-08	2008-09	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	2	2	0	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Andhra Pradesh	413	241	654	228	367	595
3.	Assam	1	4	5	1	4	5
4.	Bihar	21	7	28	21	7	28
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	2	1	1	2
6.	Gujarat	44	19	63	38	17	55
7.	Haryana	0	4	4	0	4	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	30	0	30*
10.	Jharkhand	2	1	3	2	1	3
11.	Karnataka	32	14	46	32	14	46
12.	Kerala	48	136	184	48	136	184
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	374	204	578	310	215	525
15.	North East-I	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	North East-II	4	3	7	4	3	7
17.	Orissa	9	5	14	9	5	14
18.	Punjab	2	1	3	2	1	3
19.	Rajasthan	2	2	4	2	2	4
20.	Tamil Nadu	99	121	220	99	121	220
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	82	105	187	82	105	187
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	105	51	156	105	51	156
23.	Uttaranchal	2	0	2	2	0	2
24.	West Bengal	206	223	429	206	223	429
25.	Calcutta Telephones	2	3	5	2	3	5
26.	Chennai Telephones	91	0	91	91	0	91

*Number of PCOs provided during 2007-08 includes those provided against applications registered before 2007-08.

Erasing of telephone complaints

21. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: